is whether the Government is aware of the employment opportunities to be given to those who have given the lands to NLC. Those who are soft-pedalling with the officials are given the jobs and those who are fighting for enhanced compensation are denied of the job opportunities.

SHRI DILIP RAY: The NLC is a part of the CIL. It produces lignite and in turn produces power. It has got its own power plant. His questions do not come within the purview of the main question.

डा० जगन्नाथ मिश्र: सभापति महोदय, उत्तर में बी०सी०सी०एल०, ई०सी०एल० और एन०एल०सी० के सम्बन्ध में जो ब्यौरा प्रस्तुत किया गया है उस सम्बन्ध में हम जानना चाहेंगे कि बी०सी०सी०एल० एकमात्र कुकिंग कोल के उत्पादन की इकाई है कोल इंडिया लि० के अन्तर्गत, जो पुराना है, यह सही है। लेकिन आधुनिकीकरण की और विस्तार की सम्भावनाएं हैं वहां पर। वहां नॉन-वाएबिल समझते हुए कुछ इकाईयों को बंद किया गया तथा कुछ को छोड़ा गया—हजारी बाग और गिरीडीह इलाके में। हम जानना चाहेंगे कि जिन-जिन इकाइयों को बंद कर दिया गया, रोक दिया गया क्या उनके आधुनिकीकरण या विस्तार के संदर्भ में फिर से सम्मिलित करने पर सरकार विचार करेगी? दूसरा, यह कि क्या ऐसे प्रतिष्ठान जिन्हें सरकार ने वहां छोड़ दिया था उन्हें निजी क्षेत्र में देने की सम्भावना पर सरकर गंभीरता से विचार करेगी?

SHRI DILIP RAY: Sir, I have already mentioned that we will not close the mines. These will be kept under suspension. Regarding privatisation, we have not decided what to do about it.

*365. *[The questioner (Shri W. Angou Singh) was absent for answer vide col. 37 infra]*

Outstanding interest of singareni collieries

*366. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a request to waive the outstanding interest of Rs. 663 crores accrued during VIII Plan in respect of Singareni Collieries;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) the steps proposed to stregthen the financial position of Singareni Collieries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to waive the outstanding interest of Rs. 663 crores accrued during VIII Plan in respect of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited has been received in the Ministry of Coal. This is part of an overall rehabilitation plan submitted by the Company. The proposal is under examination.

DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Sir, the hon. Minister, in his reply, has stated that this is part of an overall rehabilitation plan submitted by the company and that the proposal is under examination. But part (c) of my question pertained to the steps proposed to strengthen the financial position of Singareni Collieries. I would like to know what steps have been proposed by the Government in this regard.

Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply, "This is a part of an overall rehabilitation plan submitted by the company. The proposal is under examination". But part (c) of my question was about the steps proposed to strengthen the financial position of Singareni Collieries. I am asking about proposals of the Government of India.

मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि आन्ध्र प्रदेश सरकार से जो प्रपोज़ल आया है वह अंडर ऐक्ज़ामीनेशन है मेरा "सी" पार्ट का प्रश्न है कि भारत सरकार का क्या प्रपोज़ल है?

SHRI DILIP RAY: Sir, the request is for waiving the outstanding interest of Rs. 663 crores accrued during the 8th Plan. We are recommending that and we are working on that. That is the proposal which is under consideration. And that is how we are trying to help. By doing this,

we will be helping the company. That is what we are doing.

DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: By what time will you finalise this?

SHRI DILIP RAY: Sir, we got the letter from the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh on 1.7.1997 regarding waiving of this outstanding interest. We had asked SCCL to prepare a restructuring package. This was received only last week. We are working on this. We are going through this. As soon as we process it, we will send it to the Finance Ministry.

DR. Y. RADHAKRISHNA MURTY: May I know by what time will this examination be completed? The second part of my question is, the Government of India has got a 49 per cent stake in Singareni Collieries. Besides waiving of these loans, which we very much insist, what other measures are you thinking of for improving the functional efficiency of Singareni Collieries which has been accumulating losses to the extent of Rs. 1,200 crores for the last so many years?

To my knowledge, Sir, the main causes for the losses are two, one being the corruption which is universal as you all know, and the second being the wrong planning. We have imported long-haul machines from Germany at a very high cost and it is said by officers there that these machines are not useful for the geological conditions of our country and our place. Has the Government any plan to see to it that this type of wrong planning is done away with and proper functioning is set up?

SHRI DILIP RAY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I can only say that we will examine very soon the restructuring package that has come to us. We will process it and send it to the Finance Ministry.

DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: What is the time limit? Sir, they received the letter from the Chief Minister in 1997.

SHRI DILIP RAY: Sir, it took SCCL one year to give us the revival package. Give us some time to work on it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Question No. 367.

Special component plans for SCs

*367. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state the details of incentives introduced to make as a built-in check for the States/UTs against delayed utilisation of funds under the Special Central Assistance to States, under Special Component Plans for Scheduled Castes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Under the Scheme of Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan, the first 50% release is based on SC population of the State (40%) and relative backwardness (10%). The next 50% is released on the following criteria:—

(i) SC families to be covered	–25%
(ii) SCP Allocation	–10%
(iii) Programmes for Specially Vulnerable groups among SCs.	–10%
(iv) Implementation of SCP	–5%

There is, therefore, a built-in incentive for good performance.

2. In addition, the Government introduced a system of incentives and disincentives for State Government/UT Administrations w.e.f. 1995-96. According to this system, the amount equivalent to the unspent balance was to be deducted from the sum due to be released to the State Government and the deducted amount was to be distributed